

Written Outline for Remarks against House Bill 1508
Joint Technical Corrections Committee
Pioneer Room

Andrew Alexis Varvel

November 9, 2021

*Chairman Weisz, Madame Chairman Larson and
Members of the Joint Technical Corrections Committee:*

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck. I am here to testify in opposition against HB 1508. I am also strongly opposed to a dogma of uncritical racism often called “Critical Race Theory”. At heart, my opposition against this bill is not strategic, but tactical. If brevity were the soul of wit, my remarks would be devoid of wit. Here is an outline of my testimony.

1. This bill is a road paved with good intentions. It is flawed.
2. This bill says “may not include instruction relating to”

Students *should* have instruction *relating to*

Nazism	Communism	Eugenics
Critical Race Theory	Other discarded lies of totalitarianism	

3. HB 1508, as written, would ban “Woke Racism” by John McWhorter

Any teaching *about* CRT would naturally need to include critics of its dogma, including books written by Thomas Sowell and John McWhorter.

4. CRT is far from the only problem in the world of “wokeness”.

There is also “diversity, equity, and inclusion” and various other forms of institutional racism that get promoted in the name of “wokeness”.

5. This bill's definition of CRT limits it to “institutional racism”

As written, HB 1508 would merely ban the concept of “institutional racism” coined by Stokely Carmichael while slapping the label “Critical Race Theory” onto it. In reality, CRT is far more of a subversive, revolutionary, and totalitarian religion than the definition proposed in this bill would suggest.

6. It would be wiser to use language from Michigan's HB 5097

Michigan's bill would ban racial and gender stereotyping. Legislators are encouraged to read this bill in its entirety. Not only should we ban stereotyping, but also ban scapegoating on the basis of race or sex.

7. Racism for the express legal purpose of facilitating racial inequality very much existed in the United States, as illustrated by the *Dred Scott Decision*.

However, the United States fought an entire civil war over this issue, leading to the triumph of the Union and the passage of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. The Civil Rights Movement also reformed American society one century later. “Critical race theory” refuses to accept very real progress in American society since 1857, and it basically amounts to a rehash of the long discredited ideal of “The White Man's Burden”. As such, CRT promotes a fatalism designed to discourage any thought of progress. It's regressive.

For students to be able to learn how toxic CRT is, they must not be shielded from knowing about its existence. Rather, students should learn about witch hunts throughout time, of which “Critical Race Theory” is far from the first.

So, please give HB 1508 (as written) a DO NOT PASS recommendation.
Thank you. I'm open for questions.

Andrew Alexis Varvel
Bismarck, ND 58503

mr.a.alexis.varvel@gmail.com

2630 Commons Avenue
701-255-6639